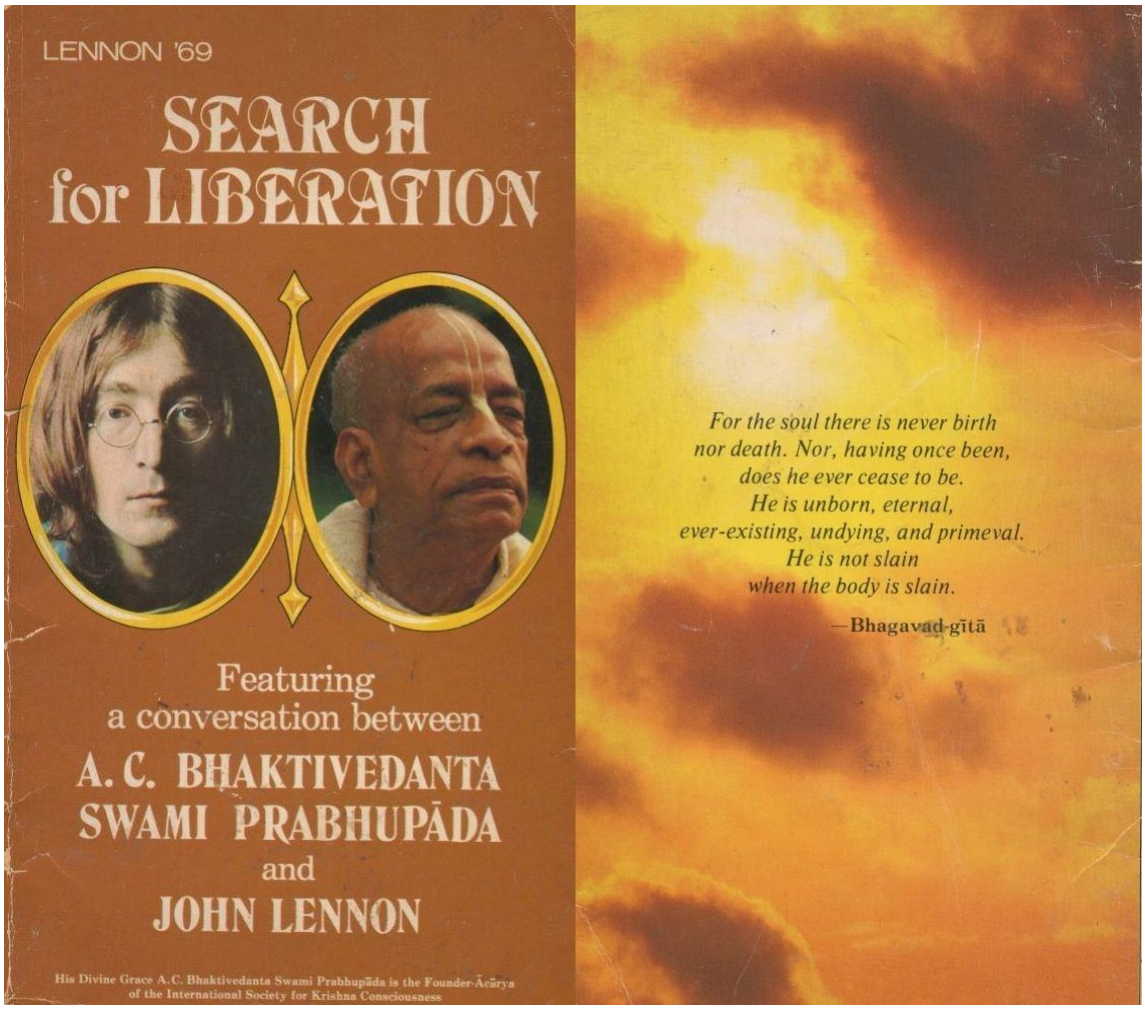
My Minor Association with John Lennon and Yoko Ono

By Bhakta John Jagannatha


LENNON '69
SEARCH for LIBERATION
Featuring
a conversation between
A. C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPĀDA
and
JOHN LENNON
His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda is the Founder-Ācārya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness
For the soul there is never birth
nor death. Nor, having once been,
does he ever cease to be.
He is unborn, eternal,
ever-existing, undying, and primeval.
He is not slain
when the body is slain.
—Bhagavad-gītā

On a cold December night in 1966, an elderly Indian swami climbed into a Volkswagen van with about fifteen of his followers and their instruments and drove uptown to a recording studio near Times Square. They weren't professional musicians, but in a few hours they'd recorded an LP that even the producer was excited about. It was a special album, more than just music. It was chanting and meditation; it was worship. A few months later a letter arrived at a small storefront temple on New York's Lower East Side. Someone had heard the album and told the Beatles about it. They ordered one hundred copies.

George Harrison would later recall in a November 1980 interview the impression Bhaktivedanta Swami's album, *Krishna Consciousness* (1976 Happening Records, New York), made on them. "I remember singing it [the Hare Krsna *mantra*]. Just for days, John and I, with ukulele banjos, sailing through the Greek islands - Hare Krishna. Like six

hours we sang, you couldn't stop once you got going. You just couldn't stop. It was like as soon as you stop, it was like the lights went out."

In September 1969, Bhaktivedanta Swami, the founder of the Hare Krishna movement, arrived as a house guest at Tittenhurst Park, the beautiful eighty-acre British estate owned by John Lennon. Three or four times a week, the Swami, who later became known to the world as Srila Prabhupada, gave public lectures in a tall, stately building at the northern end of the property a hundred yards from the main house, in which John and Yoko lived.

The building had been formerly used as a hall for chamber music recitals, but now several of Srila Prabhupada's disciples, who resided along with him in a block of guest houses on the property, installed a small Deity altar and a podium for Srila Prabhupada. The building never really had a name, but after Srila Prabhupada's arrival, everyone called it "the temple."

Nineteen sixty nine was for John Lennon a year of intense search for social and personal liberation. He was in a major transitional period, he had married Yoko Ono in March, and the Beatles were about to break up.

On September 14, John, Yoko, and George Harrison walked over to Srila Prabhupada's quarters for their first meeting. Three months before in Montreal, some of the Hare Krishna devotees had sung with John and Yoko during the recording of "Give Peace a Chance." And now they were about to meet the *guru* who brought the Hare Krishna mantra to the West.

Their lively discussion with Srila Prabhupada dealt with the path to peace and liberation, the eternality of the soul, reincarnation, the nature of God, qualifications of the *guru*, and the authority of *Bhagavad-gita*.

In a conversation sometimes lightly humorous, sometimes intense, the reader will be struck by Srila Prabhupada's prophetic use of President Kennedy's assassination to dramatize the temporality of human life and how the soul lives on after death, subjects that John would explore in his later songs. Explaining that John should have nothing to fear either in life or death, Srila Prabhupada declares:

When this body ceases to exist, you will continue to exist...the soul is eternal and the body is temporary...But that minute quantity of the Absolute within us [the soul] is very great when compared to material knowledge. Material knowledge is practically no knowledge whatsoever. It is covered knowledge. But when one is liberated and attains liberated knowledge, his knowledge is very much greater than the greatest material knowledge.

Srila Prabhupada [*to John Lennon*]: You are anxious to bring about peace in the world. I've read some of your statements, and they show me that you're anxious to do

something. Actually, every saintly person should be anxious to bring peace to the world. But we must know the process. In *Bhagavad-gita* [5.29], Lord Krishna explains how to achieve peace: "The sages, knowing Me as the ultimate purpose of all sacrifices and austerities, the Supreme Lord of all planets and demigods, and the benefactor and well-wisher of all living entities, attain peace from the pangs of material miseries."

John had searched for a guru in India and was anxious to understand how one could recognize a genuine spiritual master.

John: Yes, we should go to a true master. But how are we to tell one from the other? ... That's what we're doing. We're going around. So we're asking for advice about how to know what's real.
Yoko: We want to ask your advice on that. In other words, what is your answer to this question of authority? What is the authority, and who has the authority? [SFL]

Nineteen sixty nine was also a pivotal year for a fourteen year old child strolling the streets of Manhattan, New York City.

SIGHTING SRILA PRABHUPADA'S DISCIPLES

The first time I saw the Hare Krishna devotees was during the year 1969. I accompanied my father to his place of employment in Manhattan. He was employed as a printer for a public relations company on Lexington Avenue and 59th Street. I spent the day collating stacks of papers. I was 14 years old.

My father took me out to lunch during the afternoon. We were walking down a typical crowded city street when I was stopped in my tracks.

A group of at least a dozen young men and women wearing pink, white, orange and different colored robes were dancing and singing. They were lined up in a long row, two deep, along the curb swaying side to side in rhythm. The men had shaved heads. Some were playing drums and little cymbals.

I halted, frozen, and stood there and stared at them while the novel sound vibrations entered my consciousness. I had not seen or heard anything like this in my short life. I was mesmerized. Hypnotized. I remember feeling concerned about them. They all looked so pale. I wondered how these people live. Were they living on the street? Do they have enough to eat? While I was standing and staring a beat up old van pulled up behind the chanters and the rear doors opened and a few more men and women came out with more musical instruments and joined the party.

After a few moments my father realized he was walking alone and came back to find me virtually cemented to the sidewalk in front of the enthusiastic chanting party. I will never forget that first contact, in this lifetime, with Krishna consciousness via the disciples of

Srila Prabhupada. More than fifty years have gone by and I still remember it just like it was yesterday. [SPST]

SEARCH FOR LIBERATION

People can become peaceful by knowing three things. If people perfectly understand only these three things, then they'll become peaceful. What are they? First of all, Lord Krishna says that He is the real enjoyer of all the sacrifices, austerities, and penances that people undertake to perfect their lives. For instance, your own musical activities are also a form of austerity. Your songs have become popular because you have undergone some austerities. You have come to perfection, but that required some penances and austerities. Scientific discoveries also require austerities. In fact, anything valuable requires austerity. If one works very devoutly and painstakingly, one becomes successful.

That is called *yajna*, or sacrifice. It is also called *tapasya*, or penance. So Krishna says that He is the enjoyer of the results of your *tapasya*. He claims, "The result of your *tapasya* should come to Me. Then you'll be satisfied."

The second thing people should remember is that Krishna is the supreme proprietor. People are claiming, "This is my England," This is my India," This is my Germany," This is my China." No! Everything belongs to God, Krishna. Not only this planet belongs to Krishna, but all other planets in the universe.

Still, we have divided even this planet into so many nations. Originally, this planet was not divided. From the historical accounts in the *Mahabharata*, we understand that the whole planet was once ruled by a single emperor who resided in India, in the place called Hastinapura, the site of modern Delhi. Even up to five thousand years ago there was only one king, Maharaja Pariksit. The whole planet was under one flag and was called Bharata-varsa. But gradually Bharata-varsa has become smaller and smaller and smaller. For instance, very recently, just twenty years ago, the remaining portion of Bharata-varsa, now called India, was divided into Pakistan and Hindustan. Actually, India was one, but now it has been reduced by the partition. The dividing is going on.

The Earth Is God's Place

But actually this whole planet is God's place. It's nobody else's place. How can we claim possession? For example, you have given me this place to stay in. If I stay for one week and then claim, "Oh, this is my room," is that a very nice thing? There will immediately be some disagreement, some trouble. Rather, I should recognize the actual fact, namely, that you have kindly spared this room. By your permission I am living here, comfortably. And when it is necessary for me to leave, I shall go.

Similarly, we all come here into the kingdom of God empty-handed, and we go empty-handed. So how can we claim that this is my property, this is my country, this is my world, this is my planet? Is it not insanity? So Lord Krishna says, *sarva-loka-mahesvaram:* "I am the Supreme Lord of every place."

Thirdly, we should always remember that Krishna is the real friend of every living entity and that He is sitting as a friend within everyone's heart. He's such a nice friend. In this material world, we make friendships, but they break up. Or my friend lives somewhere, and I live somewhere else. But Krishna is such a nice friend that He is living within - within me and within my heart. He is the best friend of all living beings. He's not just the friend of a select few, but is dwelling even within the heart of the most insignificant creature as Paramatma or Supersoul.

The Peace Formula

So if these three things are understood clearly, then one becomes peaceful. This is the real peace formula. Everything is there in *Bhagavad-gita*. One simply has to study it. Just like arithmetic - there are so many types of mathematical calculations, such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and fractions. One has to learn them by careful study. So *Bhagavad-gita* is the best book to study for learning the spiritual science. [SFL]

In the summer of 1972 I was 17 years old and worked full-time for Lloyds of New York as a foot messenger. They were located south of Grand Central Station on Forty-Fourth Street. In those days there were no "smart" phones and no social media. There were no metro cards or omny cards. Tokens were used to pay the fare on the subway and cost thirty-five cents. Telephone booths were on almost every other corner and a telephone call cost ten cents.

One warm and sunny afternoon I was walking on Madison Avenue near Forty-Second Street returning to Lloyds after making a delivery at one of the many advertising agencies along Madison Avenue. As I was crossing the avenue I noticed John Lennon stepping from the sidewalk from the opposite side and coming directly towards me. When I came close to him my first impression was that he was shorter than I had imagined. My material body is six feet and three inches tall and he was much shorter. On television and in the movies everyone appears larger than life.

Seeing the man in real life, especially in a large densely populated metropolis such as Manhattan, he appeared to be just another human walking in a crowd of many other humans, a spirit soul amongst a multitude of spirit souls, no better or worse. Following to his left about ten paces behind him was his wife Yoko Ono. I did not make a fuss like some awestruck fan. I believe the word fan is short for fanatic. I also knew he moved to New York City to escape from that sort of fanaticism. I walked past John and Yoko and returned to Lloyds.

THE MURDER OF JOHN LENNON

John Lennon was born on October 9, 1940 in Liverpool, UK. By 1957, Lennon had met Paul McCartney and George Harrison, and they started to play music together. After several name changes, the group became known as The Beatles. Following the replacement of drummer Pete Best by Ringo Starr in 1962, the group released their first single, beginning a long musical career that would lead to them becoming one of the most acclaimed bands of all time.

After The Beatles disbanded, Lennon stayed in the public eye with his solo music career, collaborative efforts with his wife Yoko Ono, and political activism for peaceful causes.

In 1971, John Lennon moved to New York to escape life in the limelight and the constant watchful eye of the press. He first retreated with Yoko Ono to St. Regis Hotel before they transitioned to Greenwich Village and eventually, the Dakota, where he was murdered.

On December 8, 1980, he opened his home to a photographer from Rolling Stone magazine, and later was interviewed by a Disc Jockey from San Francisco. Lennon and Ono left their apartment together right around 5:00 PM to head out for a musical session at the Record Plant Studio.

Before he could get into an awaiting limousine, fans asking for autographs stopped him, and he was happy to oblige. One of the fans was a man named Mark David Chapman who had a record signed and a photo taken with the star. As Lennon and Ono headed to the studio, Chapman remained in front of the building where the couple lived.

When Lennon returned, Chapman was still there waiting for him. Chapman watched as Lennon exited the vehicle and walked towards his home. Before he could get inside, Chapman pulled out a .38 Special revolver and fired five shots. All but one of the bullets made contact, but Lennon managed to make it into the building to inform the concierge that he had been shot.

A doorman at the building named Jose Perdomo managed to get the gun away from Chapman. The assassin removed his coat and appeared to wait patiently for the police. Chapman was taken away calmly and without incident, and Lennon was transported to the Roosevelt Hospital. He was pronounced dead upon arrival.

In the aftermath, Chapman was found guilty of second degree murder and given a sentence of 20 years to life. Lennon's body was cremated two days after his death, and his ashes were delivered to his grieving widow. (crimemuseum.org)

P.R. Publications Promote ISKCON

In addition to playing the piano, Mukunda's other passion was writing. He no longer played, but he wrote for publication all the time. In 1980, he, Ramesvara, and another guru dreamed up a plan that made our operation the ISKCON propaganda headquarters for the world. *The L.A. Times* had already dubbed Mukunda's press kits "smooth, slick and effective," and Ramesvara took that as a good sign. He raised the P.R. budget to $2,000 a month so Mukunda could work on a series of best-selling paperback books under a new BBT imprint, the Vedic Contemporary Library Series.

The paperbacks were designed to fly out of the hands of devotee book distributors, bringing *sankirtan* back to its original intent.

The P.R. department's first book, *Lennon '69: Search for Liberation*, featuring a conversation between Prabhupada, John Lennon, Yoko Ono, George Harrison, Mukunda, and other devotees. The transcript came from the Bhaktivedanta Archives' collection. The writers added frontmatter and appendixes, and the first printing, off the presses shortly after Lennon's murder, sold in airports and parking lots faster than the temples could reorder from the BBT, and for a while faster than the printer could ship. [BOTS]

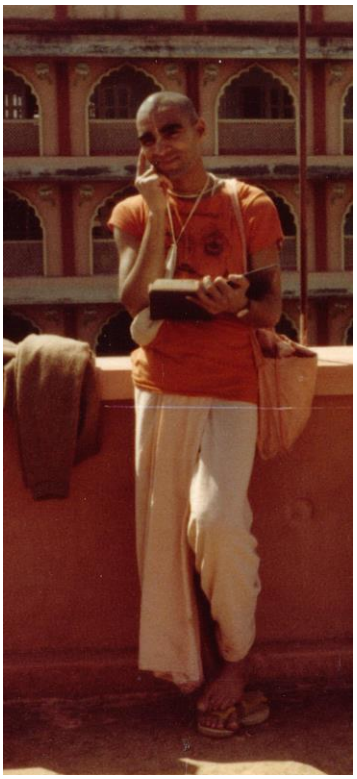
At the beginning of 1982 my wife and son Parasurama and I were residents of New Purusottama Ksetra in Lake Huntington, New York. My wife Bhaktin Maria was expecting our second child. We had no income to support our growing family and no facilities within the community of devotees to earn an income. We did not want to be a burden.

At the end of January of that year we left and returned to New York City. At the beginning of March our second son Jahnu Rama arrived. Just before his arrival I was able to secure employment as a shipping clerk and courier for a small printing company near Union Square in Manhattan.

Whenever my courier duties brought me uptown I would take the opportunity to visit with the sankirtana devotees engaged in book distribution at Rockefeller Center. They used to reside at Srila Prabhupada's skyscraper temple on 55th Street where every morning we would dance in kirtana and chant the holy names – Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare / Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare. Mahaprabhu dasa and Nama Sankirtana dasa would give me their association and allow me to accompany them and observe while they preached and distributed Srila Prabhupada's books.

Lennon '69: Search for Liberation was among the books being distributed by Mahaprabhu dasa and Nama Sankirtana dasa.

Mahaprabhu dasa



Mahaprabhu dasa on pilgrimage to Jagannatha Puri 1981

I loved to read the Sankirtana Newsletter. I would be amazed and personally enlivened by the exploits of a singular book distributor. He led in almost every category – big books, medium books, small books, and Back to Godhead magazines distributed and total amount of laxmi collected. What was so personally inspiring was the fact that the devotee leading almost everyone in the world in almost every category was an uninitiated devotee named Bhakta Monty.

He was like me – just an uninitiated bhakta and I identified with that.

But he was so unlike me. He had the courage and the fortitude and the determination to undergo the severe austerity of traveling weeks and months on end in a small van with a group of devotees to the shopping mall parking lots of the tri-state area, distributing Srila Prabhupada's books and having wonderful success. Whenever the latest Sankirtana Newsletter came out I would look for Bhakta Monty's name and wouldn't have to look far. It was always at or near the top of every category every time.

I imagined him to be this gigantic Herculean figure of a devotee – defeating with sastric evidence any and all arguments against accepting a Bhagavad-gita As It Is or a Srimad-Bhagavatam, and then collecting every dollar and cent available from the fortunate soul that received one of Srila Prabhupada's books. I couldn't wait to meet this great soul when the traveling sankirtana parties returned to Radha Govinda Mandira.

When I saw Bhakta Monty for the first time I was impressed. He wasn't ten feet tall and packed with muscles as I had imagined. No. He was slight of build, quiet, and humble. You might even say he was shy. He did not act like some of the other full-time sankirtana devotees who were somewhat spoiled and pampered by authorities. He did not act like he deserved to be treated differently than the "temple" devotees – you know, the devotees who have the humble yet essential services of cooking, serving, cleaning, washing, sweeping, mopping, repairing and maintaining the ashrama, those selfless sadhakas who were at times looked down upon because of their humble position within the temple hierarchy. He really was just a humble guy trying his best to serve Srila Prabhupada and Sri Sri Radha Govinda. He was eventually initiated by Satsvarupa dasa Goswami and given the spiritual name Mahaprabhu dasa. [SPST]

In the photo above, Mahaprabhu dasa is the devotee in the foreground and Bhagavatananda dasa in the background. This photo was taken in 2003. The prabhus were in the process of renting trucks for the transportation and distribution of the prasadam for the free feast during Lord Jagannatha's New York City Ratha Yatra Festival. Mahaprabhu dasa has been in charge of Lord Jagannatha's free feast devotional service at Washington Square Park for decades.

Bhagavatananda das also was at Srila Prabhupada's skyscraper temple. He was a member of the traveling sankirtan party collecting funds for New Purusottama Ksetra when I was a resident there. During the summer of 2003 Bhagavatananda dasa served at the front desk greeting devotees at Radha Govinda Mandir in Brooklyn and daily gave me his transcendental association.

Bhagavatananda dasa

Akrura said –

He told me how Bhagavatananda prabhu would come to the restaurant [at 340 West 55th Street] and buy prasadam and sit on the floor in the middle of the restaurant wearing his wild clothes and big afro and chant mantras over the prasadam and Akrura prabhu would have to gently convince him to please sit at a table like everyone else. [SPST]

May 26, 2003 -

I have been attending most of the morning program at RGM in Brooklyn every morning.

May 27, 2003 -

Before greeting the deities I got the association of Bhagavatananda prabhu. He just returned from Gita Nagari. There was a three day festival with fire sacrifice, initiations, transcendental relationship istaghostis, Krishna katha and Sri Sri Radha Damodara seva and puja. I inquired about the new temple building and he told me you can circumambulate their Lordships inside the temple room.

Bhagavatananda prabhu is always doing sankirtana. He travels all over the United States, the Caribbean and England just by distributing books. He is happy.

May 30, 2003 -

Today I went to the Brooklyn temple for greeting of the deities and Guru puja, Srimad Bhagavatam class, japa and prasadam. I am in the prasadam hall right now with Bhagavatananda prabhu honoring prasadam and speaking Krishna katha.

June 3, 2003 -

I went to the morning program this morning. I usually miss Mangala Arotika, but I always attend greeting of the deities, and Guru puja and Srimad Bhagavatam class and, of course, prasadam.

While honoring prasadam this morning, I sat at a table with Narada Rsi prabhu, Bhagavatananda prabhu and another devotee. I told Narada Rsi prabhu that yesterday morning when the tables were full with devotees I had to sit at a table by myself. While I ate I listened to the vaisnavas talking. One table was filled with Argentinian devotees speaking spanish. Another table was filled with Indian devotees speaking their particular dialect. I was in the middle and I couldn't understand a word they were saying. I was thinking I was so fallen that here I was sitting in a room full of vaisnavas speaking Krishna katha and because of my ignorance I didn't know what was being said.

Narada Rsi prabhu laughed and immediately stood up and took his plate and said "I am going to sit over there with the Argentinian devotees!" I said to Bhagavatananda "Now I've committed another offense, prabhu."

So, Narada Rsi prabhu sat down at the other table and told the Argentinian devotees, through a bi-lingual prabhu, what I had just told him and they all laughed out loud and said "Hari Bol!" and "Internacional Sociedad de Krishna Consciousness!" and Narada Rsi prabhu stayed there and spoke with them through an interpreter for the remainder of breakfast.

July 7, 2003 -

I chanted my rounds at Radha Govinda Mandira this morning and heard Srimad Bhagavatam class and honored prasadam.

I spent most of the day with Bhagavatananda prabhu. We investigated some advertisements for how to attain free money via government grants. We went to an address listed in Brooklyn by someone claiming knowledge of expediting the lengthy process.

It was just your typical residential brownstone. We rang the bell and were welcomed into the apartment of a young woman who said she placed the advertisement. While attempting to discuss with her the subject of grants it became obvious to both Bhagavatananda dasa and myself that she had no real information to offer us other than some publicly available pamphlets.

What she really wanted to discuss with us were her plans to become the first Archbishop of the planet Venus! She pointed to a small, round, saucer-shaped electric clock/radio and said it was just a mock-up of the vehicle she planned to utilize to make the trip. She even claimed to have held private discussions with President George W. Bush and received his permission to make the endeavor.

Later we spent some time with Bhakta Jerry. He is a long time devotee. I remember seeing him many times at the 55th Street temple attending the Sunday free feasts and associating with the vaisnavas. He used to sell prasadam from a truck on Broadway near Wall Street. He was selling there on September 11, 2001 when tragedy struck. He told us what he went through - running for his life, taking shelter inside a bank vestibule which filled up with all sorts of choking blinding fallout from the twin towers - and how it has had such devastatingly detrimental effects on his body. [PJ]

Nama Sankirtana dasa

Nama Sankirtana dasa at the 2003 New York City Ratha Yatra parade on Fifth Avenue.

After a few weeks in the Bhakta Program I was sent out with two other devotees in a shopping mall parking lot to learn how to do the "pick". Nama Sankirtana dasa prabhu, Bhakta Steve prabhu and I traveled in a temple car to a lot in one of the outer boroughs. Nama Sankirtana was in charge and he explained to me how to approach people and extract laxmi from them. I was not given any books or BTGs to distribute. I was supplied with a small pack of incense sticks and tasked with distributing them one by one and collecting laxmi for them. I was told to approach anyone and everyone without discrimination and to remember to meditate on Guru and Gauranga and always chant the holy names to my self – HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE / HARE RAMA HARE RAMA RAMA RAMA HARE HARE – while engaged in approaching the "karmis".

I did as I was told and approached everyone I saw but I was not successful in collecting laxmi. I was an almost total failure.

At the day's conclusion we returned to our vehicle to add up the results of the day. I sat in the back seat and Nama Sankirtana and Bhakta Steve sat in front. They both collected a substantial amount of laxmi and distributed their fair share of transcendental

literatures and incense. When I was asked to reveal my total I was embarrassed to announce my pitiful collection of less than five dollars.

Immediately Bhakta Steve started laughing out loud at me and my poor results. I was already feeling down in the dumps, but his raucous outburst of unrestrained merriment at my miniscule amount of laxmi collected made me feel so low that I would have had to stand on my tip toes on top of a ladder and reach up and stretch my body as far as possible in order to almost reach bottom. I was already depressed. Now I was shocked at such a callous reaction, but I took it as Krishna's mercy on me. I did not say a word.

I didn't have to. After a number of loud guffaws at my expense Nama Sankirtana prabhu injected some much needed Krishna consciousness into the situation. Nama was the leader of our little sankirtana party and assuredly the most experienced and mature devotee among us. He preached to us about detachment from the results of our activities and the necessity of proper Vaisnava behavior to make advancement in Krishna consciousness. Bhakta Steve apologized and we returned back to home, back to 340 West 55th Street. [SPST]

One afternoon during the spring of 1982 I was accompanying Nama Sankirtana dasa while he preached to various people and distributed books. After he finished giving a book and accepting a donation he took a moment to preach to me. We were standing in front of the stores of Rockefeller Center on Fifth Avenue. While I was listening to Nama Sankirtana prabhu I noticed the widow of John Lennon walking in our direction. Yoko Ono was dressed all in black. Accompanying her on each side were two large men also in black who I assumed were bodyguards. She walked past Nama Sankirtana prabhu and I and stopped in front of a store window and was browsing.

I informed Nama prabhu of the identity of the woman in black who just walked past. I don't believe he was aware of who she was. Quicker than the speed of thought the prabhu was standing behind her. He tapped her lightly on the right shoulder and she turned around. He showed her the book Lennon '69: Search for Liberation and placed it in her hands. He explained that the book was printed as a respectful loving memoriam in honor of her late husband and his association with His Divine Grace Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami. She accepted the book and thanked him. She gave no donation but she kept the book and went on her way.

That concludes my minor association with John Lennon and Yoko Ono. As you have read, it was VERY minor. It made me happy to play even such a minor part in placing one of Srila Prabhupada's books in the hands of Yoko Ono, especially that specific book. That was the primary aim of this story along with presenting the divine instructions of Srila Prabhupada.

The secondary aim was the MAJOR transcendental association I received from the vaisnava devotees and to present some hopefully Krishna conscious pastimes of them from many years ago. Our material bodies are not what they once were. We approach

the end of our lives in this lifetime humbly praying to Sri Guru and Sri Gauranga that we may remember Them and not forget Them, especially at the time of death of this material body.

The matchless association of the bhakti yogis would not have been possible without the mercy of His Divine Grace Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami, who came to the west on the order of his spiritual master, His Divine Grace Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura, to spread the holy names – Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare / Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare – to every town and village, fulfilling the desire of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

vancha-kalpatarubhyas ca
krpa-sindubhya eva ca
patitanam pavanebhyo
vaisnavebhyo namo namah

I offer my respectful obeisances unto all the vaisnava devotees of the Lord. They are just like desire trees who can fulfill the desires of everyone, and they are full of compassion for the fallen conditioned souls.

Footnotes –

[SFL] – Lennon ’69: Search For Liberation, The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust

[BOTS] – Betrayal of the Spirit, My Life Behind the Headlines of the Hare Krishna Movement, by Nori J. Muster

[SPST] – Srila Prabhupada’s Skyscraper Temple by Bhakta John Jagannatha

[PJ] – Personal journal 2003 of Bhakta John Jagannatha